WHIRRAKEE

March 2003 Vol. 24 No. 2

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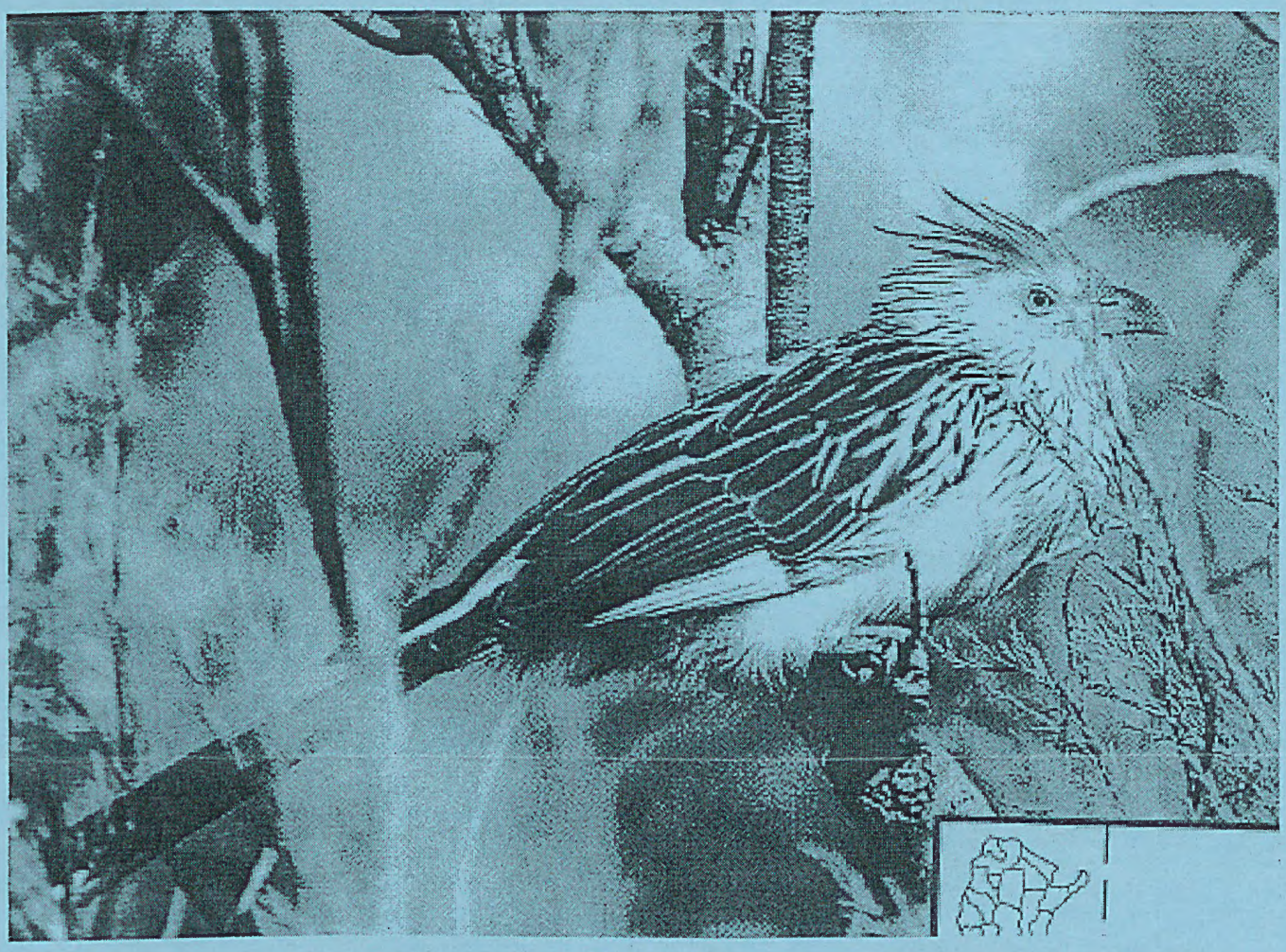

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2002 - 2003

President	Rob Moors	Mandurang South Rd.	5439 6254
Senior Vice President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Junior Vice President	position not filled		
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
Minute Secretary	Jan Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Treasurer	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Rd. Sedgwick	5439 6254
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	John Green	4/34 Eaglehawk Rd, Bendigo	5443 6756
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Hall Management	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo e-mail: s.wilkens@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members: Barbara Pelczynska, Bob Ruddick, Maurie Stone, Stuart Fraser.

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has two active sub-groups:

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizen Building.

Front Cover: Photographer: Tom Burton

This is a glimpse of Argentina, recently visited by Tom Burton. The photo shows a Pirincho, a common cuckoo which Tom describes as having a distinctly mad look in its yellow eye.... Read all about that on page 6 (Viva Argentina!). The small inset shows the bird's distribution in Argentina.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 24, No. 2, March 2003

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note
First of all, please accept my apology for citing (twice!) the wrong photographer for the front cover photo (December and January/February edition). Jane Cleary took both those photos. This was apparently made clear to me in December but I must have had both my ears closed at the time. Sorry Jane.
Tom Burton has come back from Argentina and has glowing stories to tell (see page 6). There will be a follow-up article as well, but I am sure some of you also had some interesting experiences closer to home over the summer break...so let's hear about them too. Lastly, Rod Orr has nearly completed this year's speaker syllabus and it looks like another series of excellent talks from many naturalists' fields. Some of the unconfirmed spots will hopefully be resolved in the next few weeks.

It's always worth a second look

Author: Jan Orr

When unusual birds are seen most 'Birdos' like to have the sighting verified by a knowledgeable fellow 'Birdo' to give the event a comforting air of certainty.

Bev Culvenor had this experience recently. She saw a Latham's Snipe at Kennington Reservoir on 30.1.03 and quickly got in touch with Anne Bridley for some 'verification comfort'

Anne met with Bev the next day at the reservoir for a bit of bird searching. But, alas, Latham's Snipe was very absent, somewhere else, gone and definitely not to be seen.

Anne consoled herself with some general bird watching. The lake was at a low level and teeming with waterfowl. There were Black Duck, Hardhead, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal and Wood Duck in abundance.

Anne then did what most of us seldom do, she carefully checked all the birds. And "Oh My Goodness, those two are not Black Duck! They're Freckled Duck!"

The Freckled Duck remained on the reservoir for some days but were gone by the 7.2.03.

However for Bev Culvenor there is good news. On 20.2.03 at 5:30 PM while looking to see just how many Black Fronted Dotterels were feeding around the shoreline of the lake Jan and Rod Orr noticed a smallish brown bird with an oversized beak feeding at the water's edge near the bird hide. Binoculars were not enough so a quick trip home for a telescope, Pizzey, and a phone call to summon Bill Holsworth for that all important verification and now we can tell Bev that she was correct and that a Latham's Snipe is alive and well, and feeding in the mud at Kennington Reservoir.

Incidentally Pizzey's description of how the bird feeds with a "sewing machine action" as it stabs the full length its beak vertically into the mud is very accurate.

Editor's note: Anthony Sheean told one of my colleagues about the Freckled Duck sighting and Kenny Res and this observation was then circulated widely around the university....

The Magpie Menace - A Change in Perception

by Bill Holsworth

We now consider that magpies are a menace because they defend their territory by attacking humans. This was not always the perception of magpies as indicated by the following article from the Bendigo Advertiser 20 October 1892.
"A NAUGHTY MAGPIE - a young lady who was evidently apprised of the recent seizure of magpies and jackasses under the Game Act called at the Customs-house on Tuesday (says the *Argus*) and informed the authorities that the people who lived next door to her mother in North Melbourne had a magpie. She came with the request from her mother that the bird should be seized. The Customs officers admitted that it was illegal for anyone to keep a magpie, but expressed their reluctance to take any action, as to be consistent they would have to seize all the magpies in the colony held in captivity. The young lady then stated that the bird caused great annoyance. He perched himself on the dividing fence and swore at them. When her mother called out to any of the girls it was a common thing for the magpie to reply in very bad language. She was advised that her mother could proceed against the owner of the bird, who was responsible for his insulting behaviour. If the Customs authorities seized this badly-behaved magpie, what would they do with it? To kill it would be an infringement of the Act, and if they sent it to the "Zoo." or restored it to its native woods, it would corrupt the other birds."

From the Committee:

Name Labels for Club Members

Several years ago most of the members bought name labels bearing the floral logo, their name, and the words "Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. Since then new members have been forced to wander about without a label. All this can be changed. At the March and April meetings of the club (General Meeting, Bird Group and Fauna Group) members will be able to put their name on a list, pay $5.50 to the responsible Committee Member, and receive their label in May. For those unable to attend the meetings, payment of $7.00 will be sufficient to have a label mailed to them. At these prices the Club makes no profit so cash up-front is required.

Spring in the Bendigo Bush Program

In the October 2002 *Whirrakee* the Steering Committee put a notice in the *Whirrakee* that read (in part):

"Spring in the Bendigo Bush has now completed its eighth year. In that time, the program has grown considerably, and is now entrenched on the Bendigo Events calendar. The following are a few comments for consideration regarding arrangements for next year's program.

"Due to public liability issues the Steering Committee decided, for 2002, to schedule only a small program of events organised and conducted by the Bendigo Field Naturalists, Club Inc.

"The arrangements for 2003 must now be considered and a Steering Committee needs to be established now and begin meeting in Nov. 2002. That Committee must consider if the program will return to its pre-2002 format with several clubs organising and conducting events as part of the Spring in the Bendigo Bush program. Or, should it remain as it was in 2002? If we want run significantly more events than in 2002 we may need to consider employing a co-ordinator. We need to consider who would employ the co-ordinator and the job description.

"We should nominate Club representatives to a Committee that would meet in November and they should be prepared to come to that meeting with well considered (written) proposals.

Shortly after the above information was published the Victorian Government announced the decision for the Box-Ironbark National Parks around Bendigo. Since Parks Victoria played a significant role in the Spring in the Bush program in 2002 the Executive Committee of the BFNC decided to delay meetings until February or March and invite Parks Victoria to contribute. Also, we had NO RESPONSE from club members indicating they wished to participate.

If Spring in the Bendigo Bush is to operate in 2003 then interested persons need to come forward. The Executive Committee of the Club is NOT going to organise the event unless significant member response is forthcoming.

CD-ROM Project:

Last month in the *Whirrakee* (p7) a request was made for interested persons to contribute to the further development and use of the *Plants and Animals of the Box-Ironbark Area* CD-ROM. Some response has been received for the Sales Committee and the Naturalists Committee but we are waiting for more response from the Castlemaine and Maryborough Clubs as well as more involvement from our members. No response has been received to the call for and Education Committee. Where are all the active and retired school and University teachers? Please discuss your interests with Bill Holsworth, Rod Orr, or other members of the Executive Committee.

An Observation from Tasmania

by

Mr Lionel Hill, Entomologist
Plant and Animal Health Laboratories Branch
Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment, Tasmania
P.O. Box 303, Devonport 7310, Tasmania, Australia

I saw no painted ladies or meadow arguses or any vaguely brown butterflies in northern Tasmania this spring.

The first brown butterfly I saw was 18 December which could have been one of several species.

Five days later I saw the first common brown in my garden. They are now, 3 January, common in typical habitats.

Has the mainland drought depressed painted lady and meadow argus populations?

The first definite painted lady seen in my garden was 27 December, a very late date.

I am wondering if their rarity in Tasmania reflects a lack of immigration from the mainland or the effect of preceding local climate (not drought) in Tasmania on a locally overwintered population.

Long-billed Corellas and Brush-tailed Possums

In response to the growing debate about the damage being done by these corellas and possums to the old trees in Bendigo's Heritage Gardens the Friends Of Bendigo's Botanic Gardens are holding a meeting on:

Thursday April 10, 7:30 PM
BFNC Clubrooms, Old High Street, Golden Square

Rob Price and Murray Rohde from DNRE have been invited to help us understand these animals and to talk about what can be done to control them when their populations get out of control and they start doing considerable damage.

There will be a short general meeting preceding the talk which will start at 8:00 PM.
Anyone interested in this issue is most welcome to come along and take part. Supper will follow the talk.

For further information, contact Jan Orr (54 435668).

Gorse Control That Works

by Joan Rautman

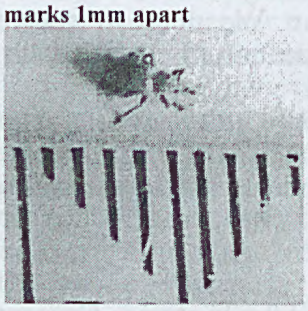
Recently I visited gorse plants growing in the Malmsbury area with a view to gathering seed for experimental purposes. I found that many of the pods (due to hot weather) had opened, but there were still several unopened pods available. Gathering some of these, I proceeded to open some, only to find that all they contained was weevils. According to the Gorse Control Strategy Report of June, 1999 (by the Ballarat Region Gorse Task Force) the gorse seed weevil was released in south-eastern Australia in the late 1930s and in the last few years has finally built up numbers sufficient to be a real threat to the gorse plant.

The gorse seed bank (number of seeds in the ground) have been an ongoing problem for landowners for many years because they are ready to germinate and grow if the ground is disturbed at all. Recommendations by DNRE (now Department of Primary Industries) in the past that farmers should spray and then bulldoze their plants just resulted in a new crop of the same weed.

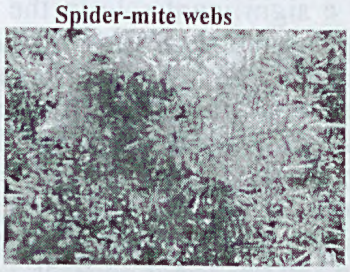
The weevil (see photo below, taken by the author through a magnifying glass!) is, unfortunately, only active in the summer months and the adults hibernate in the autumn/winter months. Gorse has two flowering periods. Summer and winter. In the last few years the gorse spider mite was released in various areas and these are now making their presence known (see photo below). The spider mite appears to feed on chlorophyll as plants I have observed appear to be pale, yellow-green with some areas browning off completely. The mites do not appear to stay on one bush for too long though, this would minimise the impact they have on the bush.

Other biological defences – yet to be released are gorse thrips and a moth. The thrips are due for release soon, the moth I think is still being assessed for suitability for release.

Gorse Seed Weavil – Ruler marks 1mm apart



Spider-mite webs



Viva Argentina

Author: Tom Burton

I recently spent a month in Argentina, and want to tell you of some of the wonders I saw. However, Argentina has so many wonders, and I saw so many things, but such a small sample of what this large and beautiful country has to offer, that it is hard to select things to write about. So I'll start with Cowbirds.

One evening, we were walking in the main square of Paraná, the capital of the province of Entre Rios, about 500 km north of Buenos Aires, and I noticed that the carved reliefs on the pediment of the cathedral were lined with black. On closer inspection, I could see that the black lines were formed by dozens of Cowbirds sitting on the carvings.

Two things about that struck me – my first thought when I saw the birds was that they were starlings, but as it turned out, there are no starlings in Argentina (sufficient reason for visiting the country); and my second thought was, "Golly, pity the poor Chingolos". The reason for the second thought was that Cowbirds are nest parasites, like most cuckoos in this country, and Chingolos are one of the most frequent victims of Cowbirds—there were so many Cowbirds that the Chingolos must waste a lot of time feeding baby Cowbirds and losing their own chicks.

Chingolos (see picture below) are called 'Crested Sparrows' in English (the Argentinian bird books give English names). They are similar in size and general coloration to the House Sparrow, but they have a perky little black and white crest. Not only do they have to put up with the depredations of the Cowbirds, but they have to compete directly with the introduced and very successful House Sparrows. The Cowbirds can't get at House Sparrow nests, built in eaves of houses etc., as here, so that gives the House Sparrows another advantage.

One bird that is immune to the Cowbirds is the Hornero (pronounced without the 'H'). In Spanish 'Horno' means 'Oven', so in English, they are 'Ovenbirds'. They are thrush-sized birds, brown-backed with a richly rufous tail and tail coverts. They are commonly seen walking around in parks and gardens, or sitting in trees making a most un-thrush-like racket. These birds owe their name to their nest.

The nest is as big as a basketball, and made of mud. The entrance is on the side, but that entrance presents an apparent dead end. However, the Ovenbird has a secret entrance above the dead-end, and it can find its way in, whereas Cowbirds seem never to have worked this out.

There is a common cuckoo seen everywhere, the Pirincho (Guira Cuckoo), which is as big as a chough, but with a distinctly mad look in its yellow eye (see front cover of this issue). It is generally streaked and mottled like a wattlebird, but it has a yellowish face, a large pink beak, and its lower back is white. Of course, like other cuckoos in the Americas, it builds its own nest, an open nest in a tree. In a Pirincho nest there may be up to twenty sky-blue eggs, because several females will lay in the same nest.

Another bird: I often wondered what Scarlet Robins ever did before the invention of the barbed wire fence. Similarly, a beautiful flycatcher in Argentina called the Tijereta (Scissortail) seems totally dependent upon power lines. It gets its name ... no, I shall quote extensively from one of the greatest travel books ever written:

"A bird with a forked tail, terminated by two long feathers *(Tyrannus savana)* and named by the Spaniards scissortail is very common near Buenos Ayres [sic]; it commonly sits on the branch of the *ombu* tree, near a house, and thence takes a short flight in search of insects, and returns to the same spot.....It has the power of turning very shortly in the air, and in so doing opens and shuts its tail ... just like a pair of scissors" (Voyage of the Beagle, p. 131)

This observation was made in 1831, when Charles Darwin was 22 years old, and visiting South America on board The Beagle. "The Voyage of the Beagle" is still compulsory reading for any visitor to South America. So the Scissortail used the ombu, a tree-sized herb (it does not have normal wood, but can grow to an immense size) before the wires went up!

The Scissorbird belongs to the family Tyrannidae. A few years back, I pointed out that whereas our biggest passerine family was the honeyeaters (Meliphagidae) the Passeridae (Saprrows) was the big family and hard to sort out in the US. Well in Argentina, the big family is Tyrannidae, the Tyrants, and they are as hard to identify as the US Sparrows ... especially when you see the Argentinian bird books.

Sadly, the bird books are terrible, and identification of new birds is as hard there as it was in Australia in the days when Leach and Cayley were all that there was, and identifying the Little Friarbird or the Speckled Warbler was close to impossible. I do not exaggerate when I say that I went past the Gorrión in Olrog's Field Guide several times without recognizing it as the House Sparrow, which it is. Narosky and Yzurieta 's Field Guide is better ... but not really good. There are other books. Narosky and Canevari have produced a little book, "100 Aves Argentinas" ("100 Argentinian Birds"), which has excellent photos of the commonest birds, so it can give you a basic list of birds to build on. The text is also very informative, but in Spanish, of course.

I have other tales to tell, of guinea pigs, coaties, cardons, a river rat, and especially sharks' teeth, but they can wait for another time. But for now, some very common birds that I have not mentioned so far. The Benteveo Común *Pitangus sulphuratus* or Great Kiskadee is quite a large tyrant with a conspicuous white eyebrow above a black eye-stripe, and yellow belly, and the Calandria Grande or Chalk-browed Mockingbird is very common. It too has a white eyebrow and black eye-stripe, but it is otherwise grey-and-white (see illustration on the next page).

The Carancho or Crested Caracara is a bird of prey turned scavenger and all-round resourceful animal. It is a large black-and-white bird, its big black wing bearing a small white patch. Darwin described its habits at length, and it is fascinating to see Darwin's mixture of admiration and moral censure – he calls the Caracara "cowardly" and "disgusting", but finishes by saying that "it is a bird of very versatile habits and considerable ingenuity".

Finally, no car trip is complete without seeing dozens of Teru Tero standing by the roadside. Here is a puzzle for you: can you work out the Australian bird that is closely related to the Teru Tero from Darwin's description?
"The teru-tero ... is another bird which often disturbs the stillness of the night. In appearance and habits resembles in many ways [English] peewits; its wings, however, are armed with sharp spurs, like those on the legs of the common

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

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NATURE AUSTRALIA(Aust. Museum)
Summer 2002/03

"Tuning in to Cicadas" by David Young: how does a small creature produce such a loud noise? The "Greengrocer", common in leafy areas of Sydney and Melbourne, is an ideal study choice.

"A Purple Puzzle" by Mark Eldridge reports on an unusual characteristic of the Purple-necked Rock Wallaby found in north-western Queensland. The purple pigment is not part of the rock-wallaby's fur but is secreted through the skin.

"Clash of the Titans" by Steve Salisbury describes the recent discovery in outback Queensland of "Elliot", Australia's biggest-ever dinosaur. What sort of dinosaur was Elliot, and how does he compare with the rest of the world's giants?

"Troubled Waters for the Coorong" by David Paton reveals the dramatic changes which have occurred in these unique wetlands from the much reduced flows in the Murray River.

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THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST(FNCV)
December 2002

"A Population Study of Easter Grey Kangaroos at Tower Hill Game Reserve, South-western Victoria" reports on a study into a possible overabundance of this native species, and the likely effect on the vegetation in the reserve.

"Potential Dispersal Agents of Higher Plants in the Kosciuszko Alpine Area" outlines an investigation of the most common dispersal means. These were found to be wind, most commonly, followed by animal, water and parent distribution.

"The Red Fox in the Dandenong Creek Valley: Impacts on Wildlife and an Integrated Program for Their Control": a continuing project on land which includes parks, golf courses and a freeway easement.

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NATURAL HERITAGE(Nat. Heritage Trust)
Summer 2003

- National Salinity Feature
- Clearing the creeper from Lord Howe Island
- Marine Pests washed away with a new web system
- Winning the war against Mimosa pigra

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Also received recently:

*Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC) February 2003
*Ballarat Naturalist(BFNC) February 2003
*Geelong Naturalist(GFNC) February 2003
*Sun-Nat(Sunraysia FNC) Jan/Feb/Mar.2003
*Land for Wildlife News Jan/Feb 2003
*Field Nats News(FNCV) February 2003
*Newsletter(Echuca BOCA) February 2003
*Envirobusiness Update(Env.Aust.) December 2002
*Box-Ironbark News December 2002
*Australian Landcare December 2002
*The Wild Connection(W.R.I.N.) Summer 2002

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Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Guest Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2003

Second Wednesday 8:00 pm

Please check each **WHIRRAKEE** for additional events or changes. If a workshop is planned, it will start at 7:00pm. The speaker will be introduced at 8:00 pm.

Date - 2001	Topic	Speaker
February 12	Members' Slides	
March 12	'What have we learnt from the drought?' Paul is committed to encouraging the natural regeneration of indigenous flora & recolonisation by indigenous fauna; he emphasises the importance of feral animal control. Consequently he has developed and employed many interesting innovations on his property at Yando where he operates the Ven's Creek Nursery.	Paul Haw
April 9	'Conservation of Native Blackfish' Jon is working on the improvement of river habitat to ensure the survival of these native fish; he is employed at the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Huntly.	Jon Leevers
May 14	'Beauty in Miniature' - An introduction to Lichens and the importance of cryptogams, based on Dr Ralston's research & collection work on Lichens in the field and at the Herbarium.	Kathleen Ralston
June 11	'First impressions of the environment of the Mount Alexander goldfields.' It is sometimes assumed that early European arrivals in this region were uniformly destructive and unappreciative of natural values. Deirdre will explore this assumption by looking at the first impressions of the miner/writers Howitt, Fauchery and Sherer of the goldfields in the 1850s.	Deirdre Slattery
July 9	To be finalised	
August 13	'Recognition and conservation of sites of geological significance': (examples from the Bendigo region; alpine Australia and the Newer Volcanic Province).	Neville Rosengren
September 10	AGM: 'Ups & downs of BFNC's Conservation campaigns'- A biased and selective Report Card of some of our Club's activities.	
October 8	To be finalised	
November 12	To be finalised	
December 10	Christmas Dinner	

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, March 12 7.30pm
Paul Haw will talk about 'What have we learnt from the drought?' Paul is committed to encouraging the natural regeneration of indigenous flora & recolonisation by indigenous fauna; he emphasises the importance of feral animal control. Consequently he has developed and employed many interesting innovations on his property at Yando where he operates the Ven's Creek Nursery.

Bird Observers Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. The next meeting is on:

Wednesday, March 5 7.30pm
Topic: The Common (Indian) Myna.
Minimise or eradicate?

Wednesday, April 2 7.30pm
Topic: The Common (Indian) Myna.
Minimise or eradicate? .....continued

Fauna Group

This group meets in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The next meetings are on:

Wednesday, March 26 7.30pm
Eastern Barred Bandicoots - Kerrie Norris

Wednesday, April 23 7.30pm
Echidnas - Glenise and Rob Moors

Wednesday, May 28
Bees - Ian Fenselau

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

WRIN News

On Saturday April 5th 2003, WRIN will be having the 'bat lady' herself, Lindy Lumsden coming to Bendigo to give a talk on her favourite subject. The talk will start after the WRIN meeting which commences at 1pm and will be at your club rooms. I'm sure I don't have to write up any details on Lindy, I think you all know her well. We will be charging $2 per person to help cover costs. Tea and coffee will be available after the talk

Long-billed Corellas and Brush-tailed Possums

In response to the growing debate about the damage being done by these corellas and possums to the old trees in Bendigo's Heritage Gardens the Friends Of Bendigo's Botanic Gardens are holding a meeting on:

Thursday April 10, 7:30 PM
BFNC Clubrooms, Old High Street, Golden Square

Rob Price and Murray Rohde from DNRE have been invited to help us understand these animals and to talk about what can be done to control them when their populations get out of control and they start doing considerable damage.

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For further information, contact Jan Orr (54 435668).